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06/25/2013 Minutes

Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

Minutes: June 25, 2013, 7:00-9:00 PM

Approved: July 18, 2013 (6 in favor, 1 abstention)

Town Hall Annex, second floor conf. room

Members present: Charles Kalauskas, Carol Svenson, Eric Bourassa, Ann LeRoy, Bob Radochia, Joe Barr, Sheri Baron

Members absent: Pam Heidell, Greg Bowe, Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Harris Band

Also present: Consultant Judi Barrett (RKG Associates); Christine Scypinski (ARB), Steve Byrne (BoS); Dir. Carol Kowalski, Laura Wiener and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. The minutes of May 2, 2013 were approved as presented.

Summary of stakeholder interviews, workshops, and bus tour of Arlington: Judi Barrett received committee impressions of the three public forums held in early June: there was surprise at the high attendance and recognition of new input /participation at the events; but there is a sense that we are still missing a large segment of population – including school and social group participants; our working parents, community critics, and those who traditionally do not attend or participate in the public meeting venue. Judi summarized the forum inputs in a memo distributed to the committee.

There was an extended discussion about the structural deficit that the Town regularly encounters and responds to with a tax over-ride.

Judi reviewed responses to the on-line Survey Monkey – which was still open and collecting data until 6/30.

Consultants and Carol Kowalski performed 51 stakeholder interviews, individually and in small groups, during late May. Very raw data was available, but not summarized in a presentable form.

Action: Additional interviews are anticipated to gain a broader participation and community picture.

There was favorable response to the community bus tour;

Action: a repeat of the event will be planned for those who could not attend and to include other community leaders.

Revised summer workplan: With the data collected from interviews and forums, consultants feel that it is time to look at the master plan elements and begin to create the goals for our plan – reflecting where the community will aim to be in the future. The seven major plan elements were regrouped into four working sub-groups, each populated with Advisory Committee members:

Open Space/Recreation/Natural and Cultural Resources: Ann LeRoy and Pam Heidell

Housing and Economic Development: Greg Bowe, Sheri Baron, and Harris Band

Land Use/Transportation/Circulation: Eric Bourassa, Joe Barr, Carol Svenson, Monica Tibbits-Nutt

Facilities and Finances: Charlie Kalauskas and Bob Radochia

Action: Each working group will draft 3-5 goal statements for each element in their grouping. The working groups can get input from other town groups.

The Master Plan Program has reserved Farmers' Market participation dates of July 24, August 14, and Sept. 18 as an outreach opportunity.

Action: A scheduling e-mail will go out to arrange committee presence on these dates, 2-6:30 PM.

It is necessary to find a different date for the September meeting.

Action: A scheduling e-mail will go out to determine availability of participation on selected other dates.

Other items on the June 25 agenda were tabled, and will be addressed at the July 18 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Joey Glushko